

**Award**  
**FINRA Dispute Resolution Services**

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In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant

Christopher Michael Staten

Case Number: 21-00164

vs.

Respondent

J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC

Hearing Site: Charleston, West Virginia

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Awards are rendered by independent arbitrators who are chosen by the parties to issue final, binding decisions. FINRA makes available an arbitration forum—pursuant to rules approved by the SEC—but has no part in deciding the award.

Nature of the Dispute: Associated Person vs. Member

**REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES**

For Claimant Christopher Michael Staten (“Claimant”): Erika Binnix, Esq. and Dochter Kennedy, Esq., AdvisorLaw LLC, Westminster, Colorado.

For Respondent J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC (“Respondent”): Alyson Terrell, Esq. and Jeffrey S. Dunlap, Esq., Ulmer & Berne LLP, Columbus, Ohio.

**CASE INFORMATION**

Statement of Claim filed on or about: January 22, 2021.

Claimant signed the Submission Agreement: January 22, 2021.

Statement of Answer filed on or about: March 4, 2021.

Respondent signed the Submission Agreement: March 5, 2021.

**CASE SUMMARY**

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant asserted a claim alleging that the Form U5 filed by Respondent, as part of registration records maintained by the Central Registration Depository (“CRD”), is defamatory in nature.

Unless specifically admitted in the Statement of Answer, Respondent denied the allegations made in the Statement of Claim and asserted various affirmative defenses.

**RELIEF REQUESTED**

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested expungement of the Form U5 filed by Respondent and relevant portions of the related Form U4, \$1.00 in compensatory damages, and any other relief as the Arbitrator deems just and equitable.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent requested that Claimant’s claims be denied, that all costs and forum fees be assessed against Claimant, and any other relief the Arbitrator deems just and proper.

At the hearing, Claimant withdrew the request for \$1.00 in compensatory damages.

**OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED**

The Arbitrator acknowledges having read the pleadings and other materials filed by the parties.

**AWARD**

After considering the pleadings, the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, and any post-hearing submissions, the Arbitrator has decided in full and final resolution of the issues submitted for determination as follows:

1. Claimant’s request for expungement of the Form U5 filed by Respondent is denied.
2. Any and all claims for relief not specifically addressed herein are denied.

**FEES**

Pursuant to the Code of Arbitration Procedure, the following fees are assessed:

**Filing Fees**

FINRA Dispute Resolution Services assessed a filing fee\* for each claim:

Initial Claim Filing Fee	= \$	50.00
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*\*The filing fee is made up of a non-refundable and a refundable portion.*

**Member Fees**

Member fees are assessed to each member firm that is a party in these proceedings or to the member firm(s) that employed the associated person(s) at the time of the event(s) giving rise to the dispute. Accordingly, as a party, Respondent is assessed the following:

Member Surcharge	= \$	150.00
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**Hearing Session Fees and Assessments**

The Arbitrator has assessed hearing session fees for each session conducted. A session is any meeting between the parties and the Arbitrator, including a pre-hearing conference with the Arbitrator, which lasts four (4) hours or less. Fees associated with these proceedings are:

One (1) pre-hearing session @ \$50.00/session Pre-Hearing Conference: May 17, 2021	1 session	= \$	50.00
One (1) hearing session @ \$50.00/session Hearing: August 10, 2021	1 session	= \$	50.00
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Total Hearing Session Fees		= \$	100.00

The Arbitrator has assessed the total hearing session fees to Claimant.

All balances are payable to FINRA Dispute Resolution Services and are due upon receipt.

**ARBITRATOR**

Chandler R. Bridges

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Sole Public Arbitrator

I, the undersigned Arbitrator, do hereby affirm that I am the individual described herein and who executed this instrument, which is my award.

**Arbitrator's Signature**

***Chandler R. Bridges***

Chandler R. Bridges  
Sole Public Arbitrator

**08/16/2021**

Signature Date

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August 16, 2021

Date of Service (For FINRA Dispute Resolution Services use only)